

Churches and Religion

Romania

17.

659 interpretation of Article of the Concordat dealing with the use of property which did not alter or restrict the original provisions.

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In any event, the Concordat granted the Catholic Church unlimited possibilities of religious propaganda since it provided that the Romanian Government would not oppose the establishment of new Catholic parishes whenever this would be requested by a minimum of 400 worshippers or even less.

According to these provisions and those of the Law No. 54 of 1928, the Catholic Church has been treated as a national church on equal footing with the Romanian Orthodox Church. The Concordat ruled also on the status of the Armenian, Greek-Ruthenian and Greek Catholic Churches in Romania insofar as they were considered as Catholic rites. Some specific information on the two last named denomination are given in the next chapter.

4. The Greek Catholic Church

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It must be borne in mind that in addition to the Roman Catholic Church in the strict sense there were three churches in Romania which, though originated as Church of the Eastern Christian Orthodoxy were, in the long run, united with the Roman Catholic Church under the supremacy of the Pope.

These churches generally called Uniates were as follows:

- a) Romanian Uniates called in Romania Greek Catholics.
- b) Russian or, rather, Ukrainian Uniates, called in Romania Greek Ruthenians, mostly inhabitants of Bukovina and

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The Iron Guard was originally part of the Moldavian and Bessarabian anti-Semitic movement led by Professor Cuza. Amongst his pupils was Codreanu who formed the 'Legion of the Archangel Michael', a terrorist organization modelled on the Fascist and Nazi pattern and supported by Germany and Italy. Codreanu began his political career with the assassination of the prefect of police of Jasi, the blackmail of Jews and the persecution of progressive organizations. His adherents were poor students of the type which in Germany formed the core of the Nazi movement, the lower clergy, army officers and civil servants. His anti-Semitic and anti-Bolshevik slogans sounded attractive to certain big business men, high army officers and the higher clergy who gave him their support. The king regarded the Iron Guard with favour, for it seemed an excellent weapon for weakening the country's democratic forces and preparing the way for his own, undisguised dictatorship. Accordingly the crimes of the Iron Guard were not punished and the activities of her adherents remained unchecked. 668 643 648

In order to exploit the international situation, which was only too favourable for dictatorship, Carol began with an intensive propaganda, taking the slogans of Fascism, National Socialism and the Iron Guard, and laying particular stress upon his desire to rule with the help of the young generation. The schools and universities were militarized and the defence of the country made one of the daily watchwords. By ruling with non-party cabinets and playing off one party against the other Carol undermined the strength of the Liberals and the adherents of Maniu and Mihalache. From both parties he 643 208 643 662